The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers / L'Association canadienne des professeurs de langues secondes

CASLT ACPLS

World Teachers Day: an Opportunity to Recognize the Vital Role of Canadian Second Language Teachers

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Ottawa, Ontario, October 3, 2006 – October 5th marks **World Teachers' Day**, celebrated this year through the theme *Teachers Make a Difference*. The day offers a particularly poignant time to reflect on the vital role that language educators play in helping preserve our country's linguistic and cultural diversity.

Miles Turnbull, current President of the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT), is proud of the hard work and dedication of all teachers who guide young Canadians in learning and acquiring a second official language. He highlights the fact that in order to ensure second language education remains at the forefront, teachers require support through professional development, information sharing, and opportunities to enrich their language proficiency and cultural competency.

"Learning a second language is an essential component of a formal education and contributes to open dialogue and mutual understanding among Canadians. The CASLT is committed to work on finding additional strategies to provide language teachers with strong initial training and ongoing professional growth opportunities. We also seek to provide teachers greater access to resources that link sound research to innovative practices, in order to help them make language learning more effective for students," says Dr. Turnbull.

CASLT will be releasing results, on October 26th, from a national survey identifying challenges faced by French as a second language (FSL) teachers. The survey was jointly conducted with the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) and the Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers (CAIT). The results will identify key areas which need improvement in order to better assist FSL teachers throughout Canada in helping more students reach functional bilingualism.

World Teacher's Day was first implemented in 1994, is recognized all over the globe, and involves a variety of activities to celebrate teachers and the role they play in the growth of young people. This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the joint ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.

The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT), originally formed in 1970, increases awareness, appreciation and understanding of the importance of second language learning and teaching throughout Canada and promotes the advancement of professional excellence among language educators.

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